

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
ON MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

MAYOR: Tonita Gurulé-Girón

COUNCILORS: David L. Romero
Vincent Howell
David A. Ulibarri, Jr. - Absent
Barbara A. Casey

ALSO PRESENT: Richard Trujillo, City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk
Corinna Laszlo-Henry, City Attorney
Juan Montano, Sergeant at Arms

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilor Howell asked everyone to think of all the terrible things that were happening in the world and to look at ourselves and get that meanness out of us, to love and respect each other and stated that those thoughts need to be in our hearts.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Howell made a motion to approve the agenda as is. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes
Vincent Howell	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the minutes for July 12th and July 19th, 2017. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Vincent Howell	Yes	Barbara A. Casey	Yes
David L. Romero	Yes	David A. Ulibarri,	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS

Mayor Gurulé-Girón advised there were no appointments or reports at this time.

MAYOR'S RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Gurulé-Girón advised there were no recognitions or proclamations at this time.

PUBLIC INPUT

Rosalie Lopez stated that she was extremely disappointed in the opposition of the Refugee Resolution and that it seemed to point to things that were not in the resolution. Ms. Lopez clarified that the plan was not to have refugees in the City of Las Vegas although it was about the support for resettlement of the most vulnerable refugees in New Mexico along with other communities in the state and felt it was very important. Ms. Lopez stated they realized that our community was not qualified to bring in refugees due to our community's needs and were only trying to be supportive of those who had resources for refugees. Ms. Lopez advised that many people were opposed to the resolution for the wrong reasons

and hoped it would come before Council again and asked to reconsider the resolution.

Wid Slick spoke on behalf of MainStreet, and reported that they had secured a \$46,000.00 grant from the New Mexico Department of Tourism and stated that this money matched with the City of Las Vegas Lodger's Tax would support four billboards along I-25:

- South of Raton, N.M.
- South Wagon Mound, N.M.
- Lighted Billboard in Albuquerque, N.M., North and Alameda
- Lighted Billboard at Budaghers, N.M.

Mr. Slick informed that this meant everyone driving from Albuquerque to the Colorado border would know that New Mexico had its own Las Vegas which is beautiful and historic and added that this tourism funded marketing also included advertising and publications with readership of 1.7 million in print and online.

Mr. Slick reported that MainStreet was working on two additional proposals for even more marketing money to leverage what was available through Lodger's Tax. He informed that they secured a \$10,000.00 grant from PNM to prepare construction-ready documents for infrastructure projects. Mr. Slick stated that projects would be ready for consideration if Council would pass the recommendation of Lodger's tax Advisory Tax Board to raise the Lodger's Tax rate from 4 to 5 percent and dedicate the additional one percent for infrastructure projects.

Mr. Slick informed that MainStreet and the City had selected a consultant and the update of the Downtown Action Plan was underway and would help identify projects that the City would want to fund using the one percent increase.

Mr. Slick reported that MainStreet submitted a proposal to finish the construction of the first floor at the E. Romero Fire Building as a fire and water museum, using Lodger's Tax to prepare displays and informed that at this point the MainStreet and City of Las Vegas project was one of only 25 finalists nationwide. Mr. Slick stated that MainStreet was making great progress in its partnership with the City and in leveraging Lodger's Tax with other money in just the first quarter of the fiscal year.

Karyl Lyne briefly spoke of her dismay with the action of the Council regarding the refugee resolution and that it was not about refugees coming to the City. Ms. Lyne felt that the vote reflected was a misrepresentation of the people of Las Vegas and could say that, due to being a chairperson for Las Vegas Crop Hunger Walk for 10 years and knew up close and personal how generous, open, warm and kind the people of the City are. Ms. Lyne stated that Council's vote regarding a gesture to help people in need, would deny that generosity and felt that unfounded fear got in the way of doing the right thing. Ms. Lyne informed that refugees wanted to work, to be productive, needed to be supported by like-minded people and places that would support them. Ms. Lyne stated that we should address ourselves to the reality of an enormous humanitarian crisis, find a way that we can love one another as Councilor Howell had stated and to help in some small way with this crisis.

Yolanda Cruz informed that she had been there before to discuss issues of the curb being painted yellow along the front of her parents' home at 644 Rio Arriba. Ms. Cruz stated that she had tried working with City Manager Trujillo since July 29th up to today regarding this issue. Ms. Cruz informed that she had been ignored, lied to and treated very rudely and that she had been advised by City staff of many reasons of why it was painted in which she felt were not true and felt that their vehicles did not interfere with visibility issues or blocking of drains. Ms. Cruz felt that she was treated rudely by City staff regarding her father's disability and health issues and offered to show a picture of the painted curbing at her parents' residence.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón recommended that Ms. Cruz give the picture to City Clerk Fresquez so that she may present it to Council after the meeting.

Sonya Berg informed that she did not live in the City although spent a lot of time in Las Vegas and was speaking in regards to the refugee resolution. She stated that she understood that Council was fully behind the resolution and flummoxed as to the reason that support changed to denial. Ms. Berg spoke of how refugees were in desperate need of leaving their dangerous countries, finding safer and better places for their families and stated there had been no evidence of them committing violent crimes. Ms. Berg advised they just wanted to support people in that situation and would be interested to hear from anyone on why they had changed their mind.

Katherine Duke gave a detailed presentation to the Governing Body regarding her property she recently put on the market which was located outside city limits on I-25.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón stated for the record, that she did not vote on the resettlement resolution, she advised that there had been an error in reporting and believed there was redaction. Mayor Gurulé-Girón advised that the only time she voted was to break a tie and informed that there had been no tie.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Trujillo reported that City staff along with Wid Slick and Cindy Collins had been working with New Mexico True, with staff putting up most of the in-kind and he was looking forward to what would come with magazine ads and billboards in regards of promoting tourism.

City Manager Trujillo advised that flooding issues throughout the City were being addressed in joint projects with the County regarding drainage in order to prevent flooding and informed that sand bags were still available at the Public Works Department. City Manager Trujillo reported that bigger equipment was being used on Cinder Road to open up drainage and the areas that were being affected had drainage systems that could not support the rainstorms that had occurred and would continue monitoring those areas.

City Manager Trujillo advised that they were getting the parks ready for the fall and winter seasons, he reported that the Senior Citizens Center had received their new vehicles obtained through ICIP funding and informed they would start preparing for repairs on their parking lot drainage.

City Manager Trujillo reported that City staff was working on revisions to ordinances in their respective departments and added that Safety Officer Robert Duran was working closely with HUB Insurance on updating the City's Safety Manual which would be brought to Council for approval. City Manager Trujillo explained that the manual would include a section on how to handle and dispose of syringes that had been found in parks and stated that they had received mountable disposable containers which would be placed in the parks, Public

Works and Utilities Departments. He advised that they would continue to address the issues regarding the syringes.

City Manager Trujillo informed that he had met with Las Vegas City Schools Superintendent Cal Cooper, touring Legion Park Elementary School and spoke of some of the possibilities of utilizing the building which also included Memorial Middle School for non-profit organizations (Samaritan House/Domestic Violence) and stated that he wanted to find ways of helping the schools in order to avoid demolition of these buildings.

City Manager Trujillo stated that they were waiting on the budget approval from the Department of Finance and Administration to see what the parameters were in order to move forward and informed that the Police Department was preparing for interviews for four vacancies, he advised the department would have to wait to advertise for the two vacancies approved by Council until DFA approval and that three dispatch positions had been advertised as well. City Manager Trujillo informed that some employees with their CDL's were being transferred where they were needed to drive equipment.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for an update on the alarm for the City of Las Vegas.

City Manager Trujillo advised that he was working with Fire Chief Billy Montoya regarding the warning alarm and thought that the E. Romero Fire Station would be an ideal location for the alarm although they were looking into other areas and costs and felt it was of great concern, being that we recently experienced a tornado warning.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for the status on lighting around the parks and exits coming into town.

City Manager Trujillo advised that the Streets Department had applied for a grant from PNM regarding LED lighting for Bridge Street and around the park and reported that the lights on North and South off ramps were up and running.

Brief discussion took place regarding the use of the Vactor truck for clearing drains.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Gallegos reported the Finance Report for the month ending July 31, 2017 informing that we should be at eight percent of our budget as far as our expenditures and revenues. She reported that both revenue and expenditures were at seven percent with revenues at \$810,000.00 and expenditures at \$820,000.00, with continued monitoring and advised that once the approved budget was received, would be brought to Council.

Finance Director Gallegos reported seven percent for both Recreation Department revenue and expenditures and added that issues would be worked on with Community Services Director Pam Marrujo regarding open swim revenues.

Finance Director Gallegos advised that Enterprise Fund revenues were at seven percent and expenditures at six percent with slight increases occurring next month due to insurances; to include liability and Workman's Compensation.

Councilor Howell had a concern regarding the leak in the roof at the Recreation Center.

City Manager Trujillo informed it was regarding the Gym area (Phase II), he advised that screws holding the pro-panel were lifting and separating from the roof and they were addressing the issue and obtaining quotes at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval to award request for proposals #2018-2 to AECOM and enter into agreement.

Councilor Casey read the consent agenda into the record and made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Vincent Howell	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes
Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval/Disapproval to appoint Lorraine Ortiz as the Housing Director.

City Manager Richard Trujillo advised that as per the City of Las Vegas Municipal Charter, Article V. Officers, Directors and employees, Section 5.07 Departments. C. The city manager shall appoint department directors, subject to approval by the Governing Body.

City Manager Trujillo added that he was recommending appointing Mrs. Ortiz as Housing Director and felt she had a lot to offer the City in moving the Housing Department forward with background in Legal and organization. City Manager Trujillo advised that he felt that the Housing Department has a good staff and would support Mrs. Ortiz.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve to appoint Lorraine Ortiz as the Housing Director. Councilor Howell seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David L. Romero	Yes	Barbara A. Casey	Yes
Vincent Howell	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Councilor Romero had concerns regarding not receiving a response from City Manager Trujillo, when texting him on an ordinance regarding 644 Rio Arriba Street.

City Manager Trujillo advised that he would look into that although thought he had replied back informing that Code Enforcement Officer Levy Lujan was gathering information to put the file together and asked Mr. Lujan to hand deliver the information to Councilor Romero.

Code Enforcement Officer Lujan agreed to hand-deliver the information to Councilor Romero.

Councilor Casey advised that she had met with a constituent regarding semi-trucks going through the area 919 7th Street, not using their Jake-Brakes which had been causing disturbance and informed that the constituent had documented the times of trucks passing through and informed that she began documenting since July 2016 to August 2, 2017, (*Councilor Casey provided the documentation to City Manager Trujillo*). Councilor Casey also reported that bricks were breaking off of homes in that area as well and added that another constituent who resides near the area of Tilden and Grand Avenue requested signage to keep large trucks off of 7th Street. Councilor Casey asked for the status of receiving signage from the Highway Department.

Councilor Casey informed that several West Las Vegas personnel addressed the issue to her regarding the Police Department not being allowed to continue coaching which they had been doing for many years and were very upset. Councilor Casey stated that they felt the Police Department coaches were a positive influence on the children and this issue would negatively affect the school district as well and asked why this was not acceptable now, after being so for so long.

Councilor Casey asked City Manager Trujillo if he was mandating this, and if so, she wanted to know why. Councilor Casey read the City's ordinance as follows: *"The Chief of Police is the Executive Head and Department Director of the Police Department, the Police Chief is invested with the responsibility for the total administration and operation of the Police Department."* Councilor Casey stated that to her it meant that the Police Department had a Director and that the ordinance did not specify that City Manager runs the Police Department.

City Manager Trujillo took the opportunity to read the City's personnel ordinance, Section 66-66 *Outside Employment, Authorization: the employee may request authorization to pursue outside employment from their respective Department Director, employee's attendance record will be reviewed prior to granting such authorization, such request is subject to approval of the City Manager*".

City Manager Trujillo stated that he had asked all Directors to submit information of anyone that has applied for outside employment and advised that he had received that information from Chief Montano a couple of days ago. City Manager Trujillo stated that he did have the authority to allow for outside employment and advised that based on the testimony on being short handed at the Police Department and the time away from work to coach felt that it was taking that time away from their jobs.

Casey stated that she understood that two officers who coached on a volunteer basis were not paid or considered employees of the district and felt that was another issue that needed to be addressed.

City Manager Trujillo informed that the only one approved to coach was Chief Montano by previous administration.

Councilor Casey asked why the officers were allowed to coach for ten years and nothing was ever said.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón advised it was a decision that the previous administration made and that during a Special meeting that Councilor Howell was not present for, discussion took place of concerns of not allowing Chief Montano to coach at that time although after thorough discussion the decision was publicly made to only allow Chief of Police to coach.

Councilor Casey stated that as a former superintendent for West Las Vegas was concerned due to the superintendent and staff not been informed until today.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón clarified that Chief Montano had already been informed.

Councilor Casey stated that she felt that school staff should have been notified sooner in order to make other arrangements and felt this was something that could be reconsidered. Councilor Casey advised that the Police Department does provide a service and hoped that working with the Police Department would take place to ensure that the people working as coaches were doing it on their own time and not during work and believed it would not only benefit the school district but the youth as well. She stated that it was important that they have Police Officers as positive role models.

City Manager Trujillo stated that discussion had taken place with Department Directors regarding who had the authorization of outside employment and added that discussion had also taken place last year with Chief Montano, when finding out about the coaches and was told by Chief Montano that "it was his prerogative". City Manager Trujillo advised that he felt that the testimonies made pertaining to being short staffed at the Police Department and the time being away at games and practices would be a great impact on Public Safety.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón stated that Public Safety should come first.

Councilor Casey requested from City Clerk Fresquez, the meeting minutes in which Council gave permission to Chief Montano to coach and to know the exact motion taken.

Councilor Howell added that Las Vegas had no clubs, organizations or mentors for our youth and had heard many comments of this town not doing anything for our youth. Councilor Howell stated that the City had police officers who were willing to mentor our kids, who look up to them as role models and felt the Police Department was passionate about helping our community and its youth and they provide a good mentorship as well. Councilor Howell felt that parents and teachers were thankful to the police officers for their mentorship. He advised that issues regarding time they are coaching should be discussed with Chief Montano and added that the City could not afford to lose this type of service for our children and was desperately needed.

Councilor Howell thanked City Manager Trujillo for all his help in issues regarding District II, providing sandbags and issues of hazards being addressed by Code Enforcement Officer Lujan on Diego Street. Councilor Howell stated that the City has the responsibility of responding to the community's concerns and felt the Vactor trucks were important to utilize to address many drainage issues. City Manager Trujillo informed that the New Mexico Department of Transportation contacted Public Works Department informing them of applying for millings that were available.

Councilor Casey requested that the City Manager Trujillo and Code Enforcement Officer Lujan work with Mrs. Cruz' parents to address the issues on Rio Arriba

Street as soon as possible and stated that the situation was causing Mrs. Cruz's parents stress and felt that the City should not be creating stress to people who have enough with everyday living situations.

City Manager Trujillo agreed to address the issues on Rio Arriba as soon as possible.

Councilor Howell informed that November 11th was Veterans Day and that he wanted to hold an event of a Military Ball, representing all five services and stated that it would be held possibly at the Palms Ballroom. Councilor Howell added that the Military band would be marching from Grand Avenue along National Avenue, around the Plaza Park and ending at the Palms Ballroom. Councilor Howell encouraged anyone to help with the event, to contact him and hoped that it would eventually become an annual event.

City Manager Trujillo advised Councilor Howell to contact Event Planner Annette Velarde in order to place on the calendar and to possibly advertise the event as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

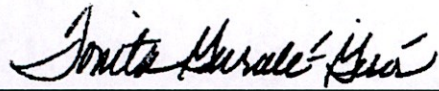
City Manager Trujillo advised there was no need for Executive Session at this time.

ADJOURN

Councilor Casey made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

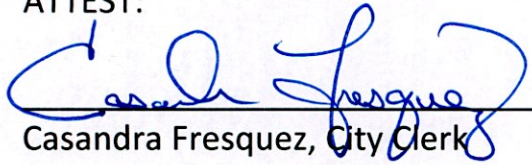
Vincent Howell	Yes	Barbara A. Casey	Yes
David L. Romero	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.



Mayor Tonita Gurulé-Girón

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk